

translated by Dr. Robert Willis, with notes by that gentleman, and others, has furnished the author much valuable matter.

"He has likewise added several engravings, to elucidate either topics, already touched upon in the work, or such as are new in the present edition, and has endeavoured to place it in all respects on a level with the existing state of the science."

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ART. XVIII.—*A system of Midwifery, with numerous wood cuts.* By EDWARD RIGNY, M. D., Physician to the General Lying-in Hospital, Lecturer on Midwifery, &c. &c. With notes and additional illustrations. Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard, 1841.

This is a very complete and most admirable treatise on Midwifery, comprehensive in its scope, and at the same time free from wearisome and unprofitable details. We know of no better work, on this branch of our profession, to be placed in the hands of a student, or which a practitioner may refer to with greater advantage. Hereafter we propose to review it more particularly; in the mean time we bespeak for it, what we are sure it will receive, the favour of the profession.

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ART. XIX.—*Eighth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester.* Boston, Dec. 1840, pp. 100.

We are again obliged to the attention of Dr. Woodward, for the eighth annual report of the institution, over which he presides, with so much credit to himself, and with so much benefit to the cause of suffering humanity. If there is any one thing to which a son of Massachusetts can point as presenting the character of her people in a pre-eminently favourable light, it is the establishment of this noble charity; and if there is one circumstance in relation to that, which above all others, calls for peculiar thankfulness, it is the fortunate selection which was made of its superintendent. This is no idle boast or unmeaning flattery. It is the honest conviction of thousands of minds—of all who have made themselves acquainted, in any considerable degree, with this institution and its operations.

Interesting as many, as all indeed, of the Reports of the institution have been, none have been more so to us than the present one, and it has been a source of regret to us that it cannot go into the hands of the whole community. We should make copious extracts, if we could, but our limits prevent. We cannot, however, resist the inclination, to present our readers with the following testimonials to the character of the institution, from the report of the trustees—men, whose business it is to *know* how it is managed, and who are competent to form a just estimate of its benefits.

"The design of the State Lunatic Hospital, and the plan of treatment pursued in it, furnish a beautiful illustration of the successful results of the humane care and management of the insane.

"The Hospital building is a grand edifice, located in the heart of the Commonwealth, a fit emblem of the noble heart of the people, who generously founded and endowed it—spacious in its dimensions—as well ventilated, warmed, and supplied with pure water, and every other necessary and comfort of life, as any public institution in the whole world—with an infirmary for the sick, and a chapel for religious worship—with comfortable and airy apartments for the inmates, always kept clean and neat—with lofty open halls for their recreation and exercise, surrounded with ample grounds, and walks and trees—placed on a high hill in full view of the magnificent amphitheatre of cultivated and ornamented highlands, which overlook and surround the beautiful town of Worces-

ter—thus affording to the inmates of the hospital, a constant view of scenes well adapted to soothe, to delight and tranquillize their troubled minds. In this blessed refuge of mercy, for eight years past, the ministrations of humanity have been dispensed to more than eleven hundred and ninety of our unfortunate brethren, afflicted with all the various and terrible forms of mental malady—and, during the whole period, not a blow has been struck, not a chain has been used, nor a harsh word spoken, nor a hard look given. Everything has been done by the intelligence, benevolence and firmness of the master mind of that extraordinary man, who superintends and sways, with consummate skill, the discordant elements over which he presides, and who has raised the reputation of the State Lunatic Hospital to the rank of a model institution, alike admirable for its humanity, economy and success."

From the Treasurer's report we learn that the financial condition of the Hospital is such that no appropriation is necessary for the present year.

Dr. Woodward's report furnishes us the following interesting particulars.

"In the course of the past year, there have been in the Hospital *three-hundred and ninety-one patients, one hundred and ninety* of whom were males, and *two hundred and one females. Two hundred and twenty-nine* remained at the close of the year, *one hundred and thirteen* males, and *one hundred and sixteen* females.

"There have been admitted, in the course of the year, *one hundred and sixty-two patients, seventy-five* males, and *eighty-seven* females; *eighty-seven* of which were old cases, and *seventy-five* were recent cases.

"There remain at the end of the year, *two hundred and thirty-six patients, one hundred and twenty-two* of whom are males, and *one hundred and fourteen* females.

"The applications for admission at the Hospital, not received, have been *ninety-nine, fifty-eight* from this State, *twenty-nine* males, and *twenty-nine* females; *forty-one* from other states, *twenty-one* males, and *twenty* females.

"There have been discharged, in the course of the last year, *one hundred and fifty-five patients, sixty-eight* males, and *eighty-seven* females. Of these, *eighty-two* had recovered, *twenty-eight* males, and *fifty-four* females. *Twenty-nine* had not improved, but were discharged as harmless, and for want of room; of these, *nineteen* were males, and *ten* were females. *Fifteen* have died, *six* males, and *nine* females."

On page 79 of the Report is a very important typographical error. The word *chains* occurs twice where it should be *chairs*. No *chains* have ever been used in the institution.

**ART. XX.—*The Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery, being a half-yearly Journal, containing a retrospective view of every discovery and Practical Improvement in the Medical Sciences.***—Edited by W. BRAITHWAITE, M.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Leeds General Eye and Ear Infirmary, &c. &c., Nos. 1, 2, and 3. London, 1840-1, pp. 200, 216, and 216, 12mo.

The design of this work is to present an analysis of the British and Foreign Medical Journals and Transactions; or, a selection of the latest discoveries and most practical observations in the practice of Medicine, Surgery and the collateral sciences, made chiefly with reference to the treatment of disease. Such a scheme well carried out cannot but prove a valuable aid to the country practitioner in keeping pace with the progress of science, and also much abridge and facilitate the labour of those who have access to the current sources of information. In the Nos. before us the editor has shown judgment and skill in the arrangement of the subjects, and in the selection, and condensation of the different articles. We shall enrich our summary with extracts from the work.